

Appl. No. 09/774,549
Amtd. Dated April 12, 2005
Reply to Office action of January 12, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims define allowable subject matter over the applied art

Claims 1-45 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-43 of Dixon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,753,873). Claims 1-13, 21, 25, 28, 32-37, 40-41, 44-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Polichar et al (US patent 6,205, 199). Claims 1, 15, 16, 19, 20, 28, 30, 31, 44 and 45 have been amended. Claims 14-20, 22-24, 26-27, 29-31, 38-39 and 42-43 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 14, 26, 27 and 29 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-13, 15-25, 28, 30-44 remain pending in this application.

STATEMENT CONCERNING 102(e)

Applicants have noted the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e), in which the Dixon reference (US Patent No. 6,753,873) has been used to reject the Applicants' present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the Dixon reference and Applicants' present invention both relate to a detector framing node used in imaging systems. Applicants' respectfully submit the Dixon reference and Applicants' present invention are commonly owned by General Electric Company at the time of filing of each application. Attached herewith is a terminal disclaimer in compliance with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c), which disclaims the terminal part of any patent on the present invention which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of U.S. Patent No. 6,753,873. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claims allowable over the applied art

The rejection of claims 1-13, 21, 25, 28, 32-37 and 40-41, 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) on Polichar et al (US patent 6,205, 199) is respectfully traversed. The present invention, as claimed in Claims 1 and 28 and 44 is patentable over the Polichar reference. "Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." W.L. Gore & Associates v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 14, and therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) on Polichar has been obviated. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the applied references. Claims 2-13 and 15-25 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable by dependency. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13 and 15-25.

Polichar does not teach, suggest or disclose at least the claim recitations as described in the amended

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independent claims 28 and 44 of the present invention. Claims 28 and 44 specifically recite a detector framing node comprising a computer communication interface to communicate image data with a host memory of a host computer over a computer communication bus independently from control of a host processor of the host computer. The detector node further comprises a control unit to receive a plurality of event instructions from the host computer through said computer communication interface, the event instructions selectively controlling events in the detector framing node, a radiation generation system or an image detection system and said control unit executing the event instructions in real time at predetermined timing intervals. The control unit comprises an event queue storing a plurality of event instructions as an event instruction sequence and an acquisition control unit, the event instruction sequence is communicated to the event queue from the host computer by way of the acquisition control unit before transmission to the radiation generation system, and the event instruction sequence controls initiation, timing, and stopping of radiation generation by the radiation generation system, and acquisition of the image data from the image detection system

Polichar does not teach, suggest or disclose Applicants claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 28 and 44. Specifically, Polichar does not teach or disclose a detector framing node comprising a control unit that includes an event queue storing a plurality of event instructions as an event instruction sequence and an acquisition control unit, the event instruction sequence is communicated to the event queue from the host computer by way of the acquisition control unit before transmission to the radiation generation system, and the event instruction sequence controls initiation, timing, and stopping of radiation generation by the radiation generation system, and acquisition of the image data from the image detection system as recited in amended independent claims 28 and 44.

Polichar merely describes an imaging system comprising an imager operating in a progressive scan mode providing a discrete pixel readout cycle. An image processor is provided for generating an image from the digitized pixels and a serial communications link between the buffer memory and the image processor. The digital controller of the control unit functions to provide an appropriate isolated interface between the control unit and the imager and X-ray source relative to the trigger or synchronization signals that must be sent to the imager and X-ray source. The controller produces a transistor-transistor logic signal which fires the X-ray source and integrate the image signal at each pixel (column 12, lines 35-40). Nowhere does Polichar teach suggest or disclose the detector framing node as recited in amended independent claims 28 and 44.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims 28 and 44 are allowable over the applied reference. Claims 30-43 depend directly or indirectly from claim 28. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested and allowance of claims 28 and 30-44 is respectfully solicited.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better

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condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

By Jean Testa
Jean Testa
Reg. No. 39,396
General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A62
Schenectady, New York 12301
Telephone: (518) 387-5115